

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MODERN SURGERY. By
ROSWELL PARK, A.M., M.D., LL.D. (Yale. Lea Brothers
& Co., 1907.)

THE author states that it has been his purpose in writing this book "to represent the surgery of to-day, obsolete, and obsolescent material having been excluded." A treatise on surgery written with such an object in view, presupposes selective ability and discrimination on the part of the author; for, while it is easy enough to decide on what is obsolete, it is not so easy to say whether an operation has merely become temporarily unfashionable or really out of date. There are fashions in surgery, as well as in millinery; and it is not always easy to foretell the permanent in surgery. There is certainly no one in the profession, however, better fitted to pass judgment on matters concerning the practice of surgery than Dr. Park. Long known as a brilliant and effective teacher, we naturally expect from him a work which will fulfil his purpose, and the expectation of the medical public.

This volume of one thousand pages is not too bulky to be easily handled. While it is a good deal more than an epitome, it is also far too thorough in its treatment of the various subjects to be called a hand book. To speak surgically, it contains no dead spaces, and the author is to be congratulated on the skill with which he has compressed so much that is of value into space relatively small.

No subject has been treated in a manner merely sketchy; and both student and practitioner will find each chapter a complete treatise, although condensed. Dr. Park's illustrations may be sometimes outlines, his text never. The writer well describes his method in the following brief but pithy sentence: "The surgeon and the physician have drifted too far apart. It is time they met again in the presence of the pathologist. Such a group, when properly constituted, forms an almost invincible triumvirate." These sentences may be commended to those rash individuals who

enter the practice of surgery as a specialty, with little or no experience and knowledge in surgical pathology and without some years of training first in general medicine. We ought to remember that the really great men in either medicine or surgery have, first of all, been pathologists. The path to real greatness in medicine and surgery passes through the dead house. For, unless a man has a thorough knowledge of morbid tissues and what may be called the mechanics and physics of disease, he can never become an accomplished diagnostician. Without such a foundation, natural aptitude and nerve may make a man an operator, but a man may be a good operator, and yet a very mediocre surgeon. Dr. Park might have gone further, and have said that a really good surgeon must himself be a sort of trinity—physician, pathologist, surgeon.

To particularize concerning this interesting volume, the five chapters of Part I are devoted to surgical pathology. The chapter on the surgical pathology of the blood contains all that is essential to a thorough understanding of the subject, both new and old. Part II treats of surgical diseases, including affections which are commonly called specific. There is an excellent chapter also on The Status Lymphaticus—a condition even now too little understood, and often overlooked entirely. Part III treats of surgical principles, methods and minor procedures and contains an interesting chapter on blood pressure, shock and collapse, anæsthesia and anæsthetics. Part IV treats of injury and repair and contains an excellent chapter on gunshot wounds; also a chapter on Asepsis and Antisepsis. Part V concerns surgical affections of the tissue and tissue system. There is a chapter on Cysts and Tumors, on Surgical Diseases of the Heart and Vascular System, Surgical Diseases of the Joints, Chapters on Fractures and Dislocations. Part VI treats of Special or Regional Surgery and contains a very complete record of the modern surgery of the abdomen, kidneys, bladder, and prostate; also all parts above the diaphragm. The half-tone plates (of which there are a large number) are singularly clear and free from blurring; in fact, they have all the distinctiveness of an original photograph. The sixty colored plates are of equal excellence. The publishers have done well by the author, and the book will, no doubt, receive the cordial commendation of the profession.

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